

**Thomas Jefferson to Nathaniel Macon, May 14, 1801,
with Typed Transcript, The Works of Thomas Jefferson
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Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.**

TO NATHANIEL MACON J. MSS.

Washington, May 14, 1801.

Dear Sir, —Your favors of Apr. 20th and 23d had been received, and the commission made out for Mr. Potts, before I received the letter of the 1st inst. I have still thought it better to forward the commission, in the hope that reconsideration, or the influence of yourself and friends, might induce an acceptance of it. Should it be otherwise, you must recommend some other good person, as I had rather be guided by your opinion than that of the person you refer me to. Perhaps Mr. Potts may be willing to stop the gap till you meet and repeal the law. If he does not, let me receive a recommendation from you as quickly as possible. And in all cases, when an office becomes vacant in your State, as the distance would occasion a great delay were you to wait to be regularly consulted, I shall be much obliged to you to recommend the best characters. There is nothing I am so anxious about as making the best possible appointments, and no case in which the best men are more liable to mislead us, by yielding to the solicitations of applicants. For this reason your own spontaneous recommendation would be desirable. Now to answer your particulars, *seriatim*, —

Levees are done away.

The first communication to the next Congress will be, like all subsequent ones, by message, to which no answer will be expected.

Library of Congress

The diplomatic establishment in Europe will be reduced to three ministers.

The compensations to collectors depend on you, and not on me.